

**Newton County Mine  
Tailings Site**  
**MISSOURI**  
**EPA ID# MOD981507585**

**EPA Region 7**  
**City: Joplin, Granby, Racine, Seneca,**  
**Spring City, Wentworth**  
**County: Newton County Missouri**  
**Other Names:**

**07/16/2003**



## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The Newton County Mine Tailings site is located in southwest Missouri in the Tri-State Mining District. From approximately 1850 to 1950, lead, cadmium, and zinc mining were major industries in Newton County and the land is marked by numerous open mine shafts, tailings piles, and underground mine workings. The extensive mining activity resulted in underground mine openings with exposed lead, cadmium, and zinc ores. The mines were located below the water table and during periods of operations were kept dry by pumping ground water from the shafts. Following abandonment of the mines, pumping ceased, the water table returned to its natural levels, and the ground water came in contact with abandoned underground mines and exposed ore. Lead, cadmium, and zinc ground water contamination resulted when the oxygenated water leached metals from the exposed ores in the abandoned mines. Further contamination resulted from lead, cadmium, and zinc leaching from surface waste piles into the ground water through the numerous constructed mine shafts throughout the county. Based on current sampling information, the contaminated ground water encompasses approximately 160 square miles. Approximately 1,800 residential homes that rely on individual private water wells are located within the site.

### **Site Responsibility:**

This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' (PRPs) actions.

### **NPL LISTING HISTORY**

**Proposed Date:** 04/30/2003

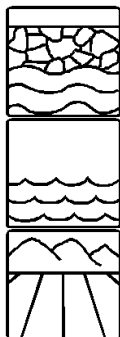
**Final Date:**

**Deleted Date:**

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## THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS

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Following reports of elevated blood lead levels in children in surrounding counties with similar mining histories, EPA conducted limited sampling around the city of Granby in 1995, followed by more extensive ground water and soil sampling throughout Newton County in 1998 and 2000. The upper aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for private residential wells throughout Newton County. Based on the sampling data, at least 400 residential wells are contaminated with lead or cadmium above health based action levels of 15 parts per million (ppm) lead and 5 ppm of cadmium. In addition to the ground water contamination, several hundred residential properties have elevated levels of lead and cadmium in the yard soil.

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## CLEANUP APPROACH

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### Response Action Status

Removal actions conducted in 1999-2003 included excavation of contaminated soils from approximately 300 residential properties. The criteria for removal included properties with soil samples containing lead concentrations equal to or greater than 400 ppm. The removal actions at the residential properties have been completed. No further soil remedial action at these properties is anticipated.

EPA has been providing bottled water to approximately 350 homes where private water well sample results exceeded action levels. EPA is currently completing an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the site, which identifies cleanup alternatives for the contaminated private water wells. The EE/CA is scheduled to be complete during the summer of 2003.

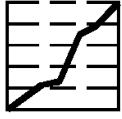


**Cleanup Ongoing:**

**Site Facts:**

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS



Cleanup of yard soil at contaminated residential properties has been completed.  
Installation of public water supplies to homes with contaminated private water wells is expected to begin in late 2003.

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## SITE REPOSITORY



Granby City Hall  
302 N. Main Street  
Granby, MO

Superfund Records Center  
901 N. 5th St.  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
Mail Stop SUPR  
(913)551-4038

## REGIONAL CONTACTS

**SITE MANAGER:**

Mark Doolan/SUPR/R7/USEPA/US

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

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**PHONE NUMBER:**

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**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  
COORDINATOR:**

Hattie Thomas

**PHONE NUMBER:**

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**STATE CONTACT:**

Dave Mosby

**PHONE NUMBER:**

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## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

**STATE:**

MO

07RZ

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:**

07

**EPA ORGANIZATION:**

SFD-SUPR/FFSE

## MODIFICATIONS